(b) if so, the details with amount spent on subsidies alone during the last three years;

(c) whether Government is considering to stop subsidizing all items, including food-grains distributed through Public Distribution System (PDS), fertilizers issued to the faremrs and LPG cylinders supplied to domestic users;

(d) whether doing away with subsidy on the above items would further spurt inflation rate; and

(e) if so, the details and Centre's response thereto, particularly with regard to low income group, BPL families and marginal farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details are given below:

Subsidy Released

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	Items	Year		
		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1.	Foodgrains	25746.45	23071.00	23827.59
2.	Fertilizers	15779.00	18299.00	25952.00
3.	PDS Kerosene	1146.67	1057.22	969.67
4.	Dmomestic LPG	1783.64	1604.77	1554.09

(c) No, Sir.

(d) In case subsidies are abolished, it is likely that inflation rate will rise. However, the inflation rate is determined by a variety of factors, including monetary factors, supply-demand situation, etc.

(e) At present, there is no proposal to abolish subsidies and, accordingly, the interest of low income group/BPL families and marginal farmers will be protected.

Release of balance funds for Rajasthan

1882. SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chief Engineer (NH) has requested Secretary RTH, New Delhi for release of balance fund *vide* Letter No. 393 dated 17th February, 2005 and No. 408 dated 2nd March, 2005 and Hon'ble Minister of Public Works of State Government of Rajasthan has also written to him *vide* D.O. Letter No. 419 dated 10th March, 2005 and No. 1122 dated 24th August, 2006 for release from the last years' balance accrual amount of Rs. 77.01 crore; and

(b) if so, by when the release from last year's balance accrual amount of Rs. 77.01 crore would be made to Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As on 01.04.2007 there is unutilised fund of Rs. 62.69 crore under Central Road Fund (CRF) of previous years for the State of Rajasthan. Further funds can be released based on the progress of the sanctioned works and utilization certificates received from the State Government.

Clearance of pending projects in Rajasthan

1883. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Qeustion 244 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 10th August, 2006 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has given a reply that due to slow progress of work the amount to State Government of Rajasthan has not been released;

(b) the reasons for Rajasthan's progress being held slow, while from the year 2004-05 onwards the progress of CRF works has been kept on higher side with respect to the annual accrual amount of particular years; and

(c) by when the Rs. 77.01 crore due to the State Government of Rajasthan is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) In reply to Starred Question No. 244 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 10th Augsut, 2006 it was stated that funds are released based on the progress of the sanctioned works and utilization certificates received from the State Government. Difference in accrual and release is due to inadequate utilization of Central Road Fund by the State Government.

(c) There was unutilised fund of Rs. 77.01 crore under Central Road Fund (CRF) from 2000-01 to 2003-04. Out of this Rs. 14.32 crore was released to State in 2006-07, which was in addition to the allocation of the State for 2006-07. Thus there is unutilised fund of Rs. 62.69 crore of previous years. Further funds can be released based on the progress of the sanctioned works and utilization certificates received from the State Government.

Model Concession Agreement for ports

1884. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is set to finalize the Model Concession Agreement (MCA) for ports and the move is likely to give a major boost to private investment in port development in the country;